

METHODIST MISSIONS,

In Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; at Ceylon, Java, and the Cape of Good Hope; among the French Prisoners of War; the Negroes in the West Indies, and at Sierra Leone, in Africa, &c. &c.

AT a very numerous and respectable MEETING, convened by public Advertisement, and held in the METHODIST CHAPEL, at HULL, on WEDNESDAY, November 24, 1813.

THOMAS THOMPSON, ESQ. M. P.

IN THE CHAIR,

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Proposed by the Rev. John Reynolds, of York, seconded by Mr. Plusmer, of Hull.

I. THAT this Meeting being impressed with a sense of the duty incumbent on Christians to promote the spread of the Gospel by the labours of Pious Missionaries, and fully approving of the Missions first established by the late Rev. JOHN WESLEY, Dr. COKE, and others, and now carried on under the direction of the METHODIST CONFERENCE, consider it highly expedient, on account of the increasing extent, importance, success, and expenditure of the said Missions, to form a Society in this Town for the purpose of augmenting the Fund, by which these benevolent undertakings are supported.

Proposed by the Rev. Thomas Simmonite, of Pickering, seconded by Mr. Middleton, of Hull.

II. THAT this Society be denominated "THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, FOR HULL, YORK, AND THE OTHER CIRCUITS IN THE YORK DISTRICT," and that there shall be two General Meetings of this Society in every Year; that, of the Meetings of the present year, the first shall be held in York, and the other (which shall be considered as the Society's Annual Meeting) at Hull; and that the exact times and Religious Services of such Meetings shall be determined by the General Committee.

Proposed by the Rev. William Welbourn, of Scarbro', seconded by Mr. Bell, of Portington.

III. THAT all Subscribers, whether their subscriptions be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, and also all Benefactors of Five Guineas or upwards, shall be deemed Members of this Society.

Proposed by Joseph Ayre, M. D. of Hull, seconded by the Rev. J. Barker, of Hull.

IV. THAT at every Annual Meeting of this Society a General Committee shall be appointed, consisting of a Treasurer, five Secretaries, thirty-two Subscribers, and the Itinerant Preachers and Stewards of the Methodist Societies in the York District, with power to add to their numbers. That the Meetings of this Committee shall be held at Hull, in the Vestry of Waltham-Street Chapel, at three o'clock, on the last Wednesdays in February, May, August, and November, or oftener if necessary; and that not less than seven Members shall be competent to act at such Meetings.

Proposed by the Rev. Tho. Ingham, of Bridlington, seconded by Mr. W. Parkin, of Driffield.

V. THAT the General Committee be empowered to form Local Committees in the respective Towns and Villages in the York District, and that such Local Committees (of which the Stewards of the respective Societies shall be considered as Members) shall act in conjunction with the General Committee.

Proposed by the Rev. J. Furness, of Lincoln, seconded by Mr. William Fox, of Driffield.

VI. THAT the Meetings of the General and Local Committees, shall be open to all Benefactors of Ten Guineas or upwards, and to all Subscribers, whose contributions in the course of the year, shall amount to One Guinea.

Proposed by Mr. Spence, of York, seconded by Mr. Shepherd, of Hull.

VII. THAT wherever Local Committees shall be formed, a Sub-Treasurer and Collectors also shall be appointed, that the Collectors shall solicit Subscriptions in their respective neighbourhoods, and shall also call on the Subscribers for their subscriptions every week, month, quarter, or year, as the said Subscribers may severally direct; and that the Collectors shall be considered as Members of the Local Committees with which they are respectively connected.

Proposed by Mr. W. C. Ellis, of Hull, seconded by Mr. John Thompson, of Hull.

VIII. THAT the Collectors shall pay to their respective Sub-Treasurers whatever sums they may have received, once in every month; that every Sub-Treasurer shall remit to the general Treasurer, the monies so received by him, once in every quarter; and that the said Treasurer, after deducting the incidental expenses of this Society, shall remit the remainder to the Treasurer of the Missionary Fund, in London, appointed by the Methodist Conference, immediately after each Annual Meeting, or oftener, if the General Committee shall so determine.

Proposed by the Rev. James Waller, of Grimsby, seconded by Mr. G. Thompson, of Hull.

IX. THAT a List of the Subscribers be printed at the end of the year, comprising all subscriptions which amount to Half-a-Guinea and upwards; and that a copy of the same be sent to each of them.

Proposed by the Rev. John Booth, of Pocklington, seconded by Mr. G. Cookman, of Hull.

X. THAT Thomas Thompson, Esq. M. P. be requested to undertake the Office of Treasurer.

Proposed by the Rev. J. Drake, of Hull, seconded by Mr. A. Atkinson, of Beverley.

XI. THAT the Rev. John Reynolds, Rev. Jonathan Barker, and Messrs. James Henwood, Webster Plummer, and John North, be requested to act as Secretaries for the ensuing year.

Proposed by the Rev. Z. Tuft, of Driffield, seconded by Mr. John Parker, of Hull.

XII. THAT the following Persons, together with the Preachers, Stewards, &c. as stated in the Fourth Resolution, shall compose the General Committee for the present year, viz:

All the Itinerant Preachers.

Messrs. Sampson Middleton and George Thompson	Society Stewards.
William Hebblewhite and Henry Green	Chapel Stewards.
Henry Thompson and James Shepherd	Circuit Stewards.

Joseph Ayre, M. D. of Hull
Richard Binks, ditto
George Cookman, ditto
William C. Ellis, ditto
Richard Ellis, ditto
Joseph Gee, ditto
John Parker, ditto
John Pardon, ditto
John Richardson, ditto
William Sisson, ditto
John Thompson, ditto
Nathaniel Waddingham, ditto

Joseph Agar, of York
T. Cordukes, ditto
Henry Bourne, Esq. ditto
John Dixon, ditto
James Peart, ditto
Thomas Lythe, ditto
R. Spence, ditto
Isaac Taylor, ditto
W. Gowland, ditto
Thomas Rook, of Eskrick
W. Robinson, of Bridlington Quay
Thomas Robinson, of Hilderthorpe

William Smith, of Tadcaster
B. Clarkson, Esq. Holme House,
David Tindall, Esq. of Scarbro'
James Lowthrop, Esq. of Wotton
Anthony Atkinson, of Beverley
Mark Robinson, ditto
John Hill, of Cottingham
John White, of ditto
Samuel King of Melton
George Walton, of Newland
John Pallister, of Preston
John Hobson, of Sprowley.

On the motion of the Rev. J. Hollingworth, of Patrington, seconded by the Rev. Stephen Wilson, of Housden.

XIII. THAT the Resolutions of the present Meeting, shall be printed and circulated under the direction of the General Committee.

THOMAS THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.

Proposed by the Rev. J. Wood, of Woodhouse Grove, seconded by Mr. William Sisson, of Hull.

XIV. THAT the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman, for the honour of his attendance this day; and for his able conduct in the Chair.

CHARLES ATMORE.

The following Account of the Meeting, at which, the foregoing Resolutions were passed, is copied from the ROCKINGHAM, and HULL PACKET Newspapers.

ON WEDNESDAY, November 24, an highly interesting Meeting was held in GEORGE-YARD CHAPEL, in this Town, for the purpose of forming a METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Rev. JAMES WOOD preached a very excellent Sermon on the preceding Evening, from Isaiah liiii. 7. wherein he shewed the obligation which Christians were under to pray for the spread of the Gospel, and to support the labours of pious Missionaries "until Jerusalem shall become a praise in the earth."

On the following Morning, at ten o'clock, the Rev. JAMES WOOD, preached a very eloquent Discourse, from Rev. i. 6, 7. Among other expressions, were the following: "The British and Foreign Bible Society has rolled a noble stream of truth through the world, but you must send Christian Missionaries, to stand upon its banks and cry, *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the water.*"

In the afternoon, at two o'clock, the Gallery was completely filled with females; and the lower part of the Chapel was crowded to excess. Mr. James WOOD opened the Meeting with singing and prayer. THOMAS THOMPSON, Esq. M. P. was unanimously called to the Chair: He observed, the Methodists had long been eminent for their individual exertions in the cause of Missions, but that the object of these Meetings, was to unite their strength, as a religious body of people, that they might act upon a more extensive plan. He related some anecdotes well calculated to assist the Missionary cause, particularly requested the prayers of the poor, and concluded with observing, "We had rather have your prayers than your clappings; we know you will feel much interested on this occasion, but request you will refrain from giving those loud plaudits, which are usual at public meetings."

The first Resolution was moved by the Rev. John Reynolds, which he prefaced by contrasting the rise and progress of infidelity in France, with the rise and progress of Methodism in England; remarking, that in the year 1729, the French Philosopher, Voltaire, came over to this Country, to form an acquaintance with the Infidels here; and that in the same year the first Methodists began their Prayer Meetings, in Oxford. In the year 1742, the Illuminati Clubs were formed in Germany, and that about the same time, the first Methodist Conference was held in London. These rival establishments were very differently supported; the one was countenanced and upheld by men of rank and influence; the other, feeble in its infancy, was very generally opposed: but now the interests of infidelity were gradually on the decline, while the cause of Vital Christianity, was prospering in the earth. He further remarked, that by an astonishing Providence, while Voltaire and his associates were battering down the outworks of Christianity, the Methodists were engaged in strengthening the interior by diffusing the spirit of Religion throughout the nation. He concluded by observing, that as in our feebleness we had made great and successful efforts to evangelize the heathen, so in the day of our strength we must not be backward in promoting the same glorious cause to a much greater extent.

He was seconded by Mr. W. B. Plummer, who after some prefatory remarks, urged the necessity of these institutions, from the circumstance of the Mission Fund being deprived of the labours of Dr. Coke, who was now in the decline of life, shut up in his closet learning the languages of India, previous to his voyage across the ocean, and to the commencement of his labours, as a Missionary among strangers in a distant land. Adverting to the "signs of the times," he observed, that the Almighty was calling back his ministers of justice and sending forth his ministers of mercy. He instanced the change which had taken place in the condition of the degraded Africans, the abolition of the Slave Trade, and by the efforts of Christian Missionaries. Lastly, he anticipated the time when Africa civilized and enlightened by the preaching of the Gospel should have Black Bishops on the Bench, or Black Presbyters in the Chair, equal in wisdom and piety, to their renowned countrymen, St. Cyprian and St. Augustine.

The Rev. W. Warren, who had been employed many years as a Missionary in the West Indies, gave some account of the rise and spread of Methodism, in the Island of Antigua, and related many very interesting anecdotes respecting both the Negroes and the Planters. The beneficial influence of religion on the minds of the converted Negroes, was manifest in the loyalty of their sentiments, the purity of their religious principles, and in the uprightness of their conduct. Mr. W. observed that when they spoke of the King, they called him "our good father King George," and when they mentioned England, it was with the greatest regard. They had the same hopes and fears, the same joys and sorrows, as the European Christians, and no persons in any country could place a higher value upon their religious advantages than these poor Blacks. When the Island was expected to be invaded by the French, Mr. Warren, and another Missionary undertook to raise a Corps of Volunteers, which they effected to the number of Seven Hundred. On asking some of them for what will you fight, they returned this memorable answer, "for our wives, for our children, and for our chapel." A Planter being surprised to see some of his produce in safety, which might have been stolen with impunity, said to a Negro Watchman, "How is it that this has not been stolen, seeing you are all thieves?" was answered, "No, Massa! the Negurs who go to prayers, never teeve," this simple reply so affected the Planter, who had been much prejudiced against the Methodists, that he immediately sent for Mr. Baxter, the Missionary, to instruct the Slaves on his estate.

The second Resolution was proposed by the Rev. Thomas Simmott, who after expressing the joy of his soul, on first reading the Resolutions of the Leeds Meeting, and his entire approbation of the proceedings of this day, concluded with observing, how heartily the Friends of the Gospel, in his Circuit, would unite in promoting the designs of this Society.

This Motion was supported by Mr. S. Middleton, who stated the obligations, which his family were under to support Methodist Missions. He observed, that his father lived in an obscure part of the country, far removed from a Gospel Ministry, and that he first heard the sound of Salvation, from the mouth of a Methodist Missionary, who was preaching in the Streets, of a neighbouring Town. That having experienced something of the power of the Gospel on his own mind, he ardently desired that the same Gospel might be preached to the heathen.

The Rev. J. Bunting delivered a very eloquent speech in the most easy and graceful manner: He noticed the unanimity of the meeting, and remarked that a speaker here was so singularly circumstanced, that he had no objections to answer, no arguments to refute, no difficulties to overcome. The state of the heathen world called for the purifying influences of the Christian Religion, and the dangers to which the heathens were exposed, pleaded most strongly for the interference of Christian Ministers. It is true, the Methodists have various Missionaries employed, but a wide field remained yet untrodden, and they have no adequate means to enable them to cultivate it. It had been asked "Have you any Missionary Colleges? Yes, the most extensive in the world. He instanced the West Indies, where Missionaries were preparing for Africa and America; the Prison Ships on the Medway and the Hamaze, from which Missionaries would be sent into France: He exclaimed, did not every British heart triumph in the victories recently obtained over French tyranny; and would not every Christian heart triumph in the success of those missions over French infidelity and wickedness. Men not best in Societies, their example is inspiring to each other; which of us, who are present this day, would have felt the same interest in the Missionary cause, had we been meditating in our own houses on this important subject. To evangelize the heathen world, would require the exertions of all Christendom, and though we could not expect, in our day, to see this accomplished; yet we may, like David, prepare materials for the temple of God, and thus contribute to the advancement of his kingdom upon earth. Mr. B. concluded by saying, that the public need not be apprehensive that the Subscriptions to the Mission Fund would raise more money than the Society wanted, as new openings were presenting themselves daily. A man of respectability and piety had lately conceived it to be his duty to go and do good among the poor outcasts, at Botany Bay; he had been instrumental in raising a small Methodist Society, and had requested that two Missionaries might be sent from England to their assistance.

Mr. John Hill, in very eloquent language described the state of Britain, previous to its conversion to Christianity. He was about to give some account of the exertions which had been made to evangelize the heathen, but he was so unwell, that after several attempts to proceed, he was obliged to sit down, to the great disappointment of all present, who were prepared to receive much satisfaction from his exertions in the Missionary cause.

The Rev. Jonathan Barker stated, that such were his feelings on the present occasion, that language could not utter what he wished to express; the sight of so numerous and respectable an assembly afforded him great pleasure, and augured well for that cause, in which they were at present embarked. The Methodists, he said, had long been engaged in Missionary efforts, but now, a new and extensive field presented itself to them in the East, the call of God was heard, and it was their bounden duty to obey it. Proper persons, he had no doubt, would be found to go, and when he looked round, and saw the marked interest, so manifest in the countenances of the audience, he hesitated not to say, that the means would be amply supplied; in giving a little of our silver and gold, we only gave to God that which was his own, and that which he had a right to demand. He then read several extracts from a pamphlet, he held in his hand, portraying the abominable rites and monstrous extravagances of the Indian worship, adding a forcible appeal to the judgment, and feelings of the present assembly. After which he concluded, by an animated address particularly calling upon the females in the Gallery, to exert themselves to the utmost, in so glorious a cause.

The Rev. C. Moore in the course of an interesting speech, read some extracts from Mr. Wesley's Sermon, "On the general spread of the Gospel." He gave some account of the exertions which had been made to support the Missionary Society, which had been formed at Halifax, and related several anecdotes, which had a tendency to induce many persons to lay aside the superfluities of life, that they might more effectually help the Institution. He concluded, with observing that he had frequently remarked, that ever since the repeal of the Conventicle Act, and the passing of the New Toleration Act, his Majesty's arms had been crowned with success.

Mr. John Thompson read part of a letter which he had received from a young man, who was employed by Government, at Berberie, in teaching a school, and instructing the Natives, stating the success which had attended his Missionary labours. Mr. T. related an anecdote of an Indian Chief, or King, who attended by four hundred warriors, waited upon one of the Missionaries in South America, and requested that some persons might be sent into his Country to instruct his people, promising to take great care of them. The Chief in urging his request, said, that he looked every day into the good book which had been put into his hands, and that he was determined to go no more to war unless he was compelled.

Several other Gentlemen delivered their sentiments in very animated speeches, each to the satisfaction of a delighted audience, but our limits will not allow us to insert them. The Speakers were Dr. Ayre, Rev. Messrs. Welburn, Ingham, Furness, Morley, Waller, Booth, and Drake, Mr. R. Spence, of York, Mr. W. C. Ellis, and Mr. Sisson, of Hull.

In moving a vote of Thanks to the Chairman, The Rev. James Wood, delivered a very impressive speech, which he closed with observing, "That if not one shilling additional was obtained for the Mission Fund by these Public Meetings, yet the benefit resulting from them, would be incalculable." The Meeting was closed by singing and prayer.

In the Evening, the Rev. JAMES BUNTING, delivered a most excellent Discourse from John. 3. Epistle, 5 to 8 v. when the Chapel was crowded with singing and attentive hearers. At the same time, the Rev. JAMES WALLER, of Grimby, preached at the Chapel, in Scott-Street.

